REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 18-22 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being clearly anticipated by Manolatou et al., Journal of Lightwave Technology, vol. 17, no. 9, entitled "High-Density Integrated Optics."

Claims 1, 9, and 29 have now been amended to recite a three dimensional high transmission cavity structure comprising at least one two dimensional high transmission cavity bend structure and having materials that act to pull down a mode away from the outer wall, improving mode matching and reducing loss.

Manolatou et al. describe *two-dimensional* finite difference time domain (FDTD) simulations of low-loss right-angle waveguide bends, T-junctions and crossings, based on high index-contrast waveguides. Such structures are essential for the dense integration of optical components. Note also that Manolatou et al. utilize only two high transmission cavity structures.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites a three-dimensional high transmission cavity structure, and independent claim 29 recites three-dimensional high transmission cavity elements. Manolatou et al. do not address issues concerning a three-dimensional high transmission cavity structure. The high transmission cavity structures described throughout Manolatou et al. are two-dimensional. Secondly, the claimed three-dimensional high transmission cavity structure includes a finite thickness. Thirdly, in forming these three dimensional structures at least one two dimensional high transmission cavity bend structure is

used. Also, Manolatou et al. is completely silent as to the use of a material that acts to pull down a mode away from the outer wall, improving mode matching and reducing loss.

Therefore, the article of Manolatou et al. does not anticipate claims 1 and 29.

As to claims 2-6 and 30-32, they are dependent on claim 1, respectively. Therefore, claims 2-6 are also allowable for the same reasons argued with respect to claim 1.

In addition, independent claim 9 recites a three dimensional splitting structure that includes at least two separate optical cavities connected to their sides, wherein each of said optical cavities includes at least four straight edge sides that are orthogonal with a finite width and thickness. The article by Manolatou et al. does not address issues concerning a three-dimensional splitting structure. The splitting structures described throughout Manolatou et al. are two-dimensional. Secondly, the claimed three-dimensional splitting structure includes a finite thickness. Given that Manolatou et al. describe two-dimensional splitting structures, none of these splitting structures include a thickness because of the inherent limitation that two-dimensional structures do not have a thickness. Also, in forming the claimed three dimensional splitting structure at least one two dimensional high transmission cavity bend structure is used. Manolatou et al. is completely silent as to the use of a material that acts to pull down a mode away from the outer wall, improving mode matching and reducing loss. Furthermore, Manolatou et al. do not explicitly state that their splitting structures have any thickness. Therefore, the article of Manolatou et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

The Examiner states the article of Manolatou et al. does not limit its geometry to simply a two-dimensional interconnecting structure. However, Manolatou et al. describe the

operational principles by using 2-D numerical simulations of a collection of example structures made of high index-contrast single-mode waveguides. The concept presented in this reference is very general and could be applied using a variety of resonant structures. Moreover, Manolatou et al. describe that an accurate estimation of the polarization dependence as well as the leakage of radiation into the substrate require 3D simulations for a more realistic design. Furthermore, Manolatou et al. state that it only analyzes 2-D structures for ease because it would be computationally intensive to do otherwise. This does not imply or support the position that Manolatou et al. describe three-dimensional structures. In fact, it supports the position that the article of Manolatou et al. does not describe or support 3-D structures. Therefore, the Manolatou et al. article does not teach or suggest a three-dimensional interconnecting structure or even using at least two 2-as recited in the claims 1, 9 and 29.

As to claims 10-11 and 18-22, they are dependent on claim 9, respectively. Therefore, claims 10-11 and 18-22 are also allowable for the same reasons argued with respect to claim 9.

Claims 7, 12, 14-17, 23, 25-28 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Manolatou et al. in view of an article by Tang et al., IEEE Proc-Optoelectro., vol. 143, no. 5, October 1996.

Tang et al. describe using silicon microelectronics fabrication methods to fabricate low-loss silicon integrated optical devices of dimensions which are compatible with single mode fibers and operate at the important wavelengths of 1.3 and 1.5 μm.

Given that claims 7, 12, 14-17, 23, 25-28 and 33, are dependent on claims 1, 9, and 27, the reasons argued for claims 1, 9, and 27 are also applicable here. Also, Tang et al. do

not address the deficiencies of Manolatou et al. Therefore, the proposed combination of Manolatou et al. and Tang et al. does not render obvious claims 2, 12, 14-17, 23, 25-28 and 33.

Claims 8, 13, 24 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Manolatou et al. in view of Kitamura, U.S. 5,949,931.

Kitamura '931 describes an optical coupler having a substrate, an optical waveguide provided on the substrate, a multimode fiber optically coupled with the optical waveguide, and a single mode fiber optical coupled wit the optical waveguide.

Given that claims 8, 13, 24 and 34, are dependent on claims 9 and 27, the reasons argued for claims 9, and 27 are also applicable here. Also, Kitamura '931 does not address the deficiencies of Manolatou et al. Therefore, the proposed combination of Manolatou et al. and Kitamura '931 does not render obvious claims 8, 13, 24 and 34.

In view of the above amendments and for all the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection and rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. Accordingly, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please feel free to contact the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter S. Stecher
Registration No. 47,259
Gauthier & Connors LLP
225 Franklin Street, Suite 2300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Telephone: (617) 426-9180
Extension: 126